

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

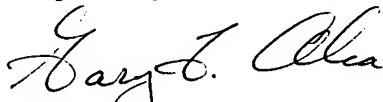
The specification on pages 10 and 14 has been amended to correct various typographical errors.

Of previously pending claims 19-43, claims 19-27, 32-35 and 40-43 were rejected and claims 28-31 and 36-39 were objected to. Accordingly, independent claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 20 and 28, which were canceled. Claims 22, 29, 32,-34 and 36 were also amended to properly reflect the changes to independent claim 19. Hence claims 19, 21-27, 29-43 should be allowable.

In an accompanying Supplemental Information Disclosure, the applicants also submit another patent reference related to optical fiber arrays for consideration by the Examiner.

Therefore, in view of the amendments above and the remarks directed thereto, the applicants requests that all rejections be withdrawn, that claims 19, 21-27, 29-43 be allowed and the case be passed to issue. If a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned at (408) 446-7687.

Respectfully submitted,


Gary T. Aka
Reg. No. 29,038

RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP
12930 Saratoga Ave., Suite D1
Saratoga, CA 95070
Tel: 408-446-8690
Fax: 408-446-8691